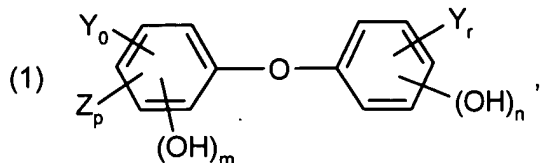


## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A method of inhibiting melanogenesis and for lightening skin, which comprises contacting said skin with a composition comprising

from 0.001 to 10 % based on weight of said composition of component (a) which is a halogenated hydroxydiphenyl ether compound of formula



wherein

Y is chlorine or bromine,

Z is SO<sub>2</sub>H, NO<sub>2</sub>; or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl;

m is 0 or 1;

n is 1 or 2;

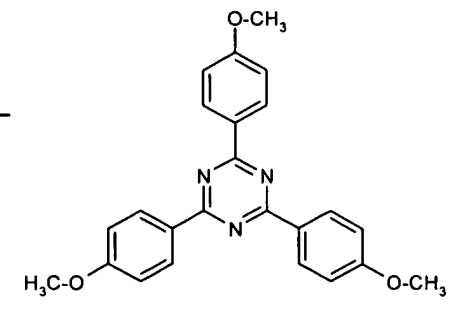
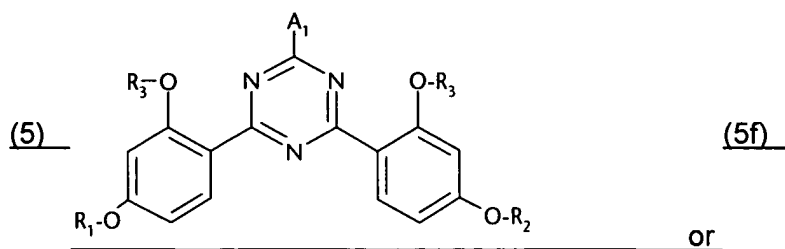
r is from 0 to 3;

o is from 1 to 3; and

p is 0, 1 or 2;

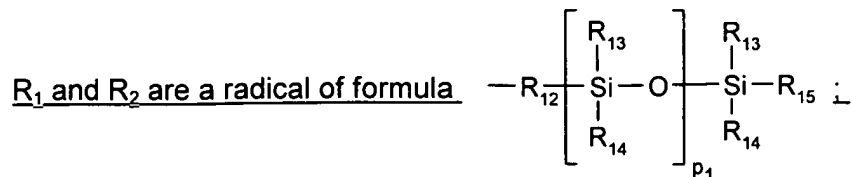
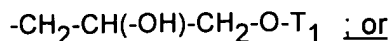
from 0.05 to 1 % based on weight of said composition of component (b) which is a skin-lightening substance selected from the group consisting of kojic acid, arbutin, quercitin, aloesin, azelaic acid, quaiol, ellagic acid and ester compounds thereof and fluorescent whiteners; and

from 0.1 to 15 % based on weight of said composition of component (c) which is a triazine UV absorber compound of formula

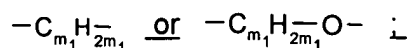


wherein

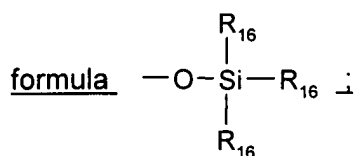
R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each independently of the other C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl; C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkenyl; a radical of formula



R<sub>12</sub> is a direct bond; a straight-chain or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylene radical or a radical of formula



R<sub>13</sub>, R<sub>14</sub> and R<sub>15</sub> are each independently of the others C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkoxy or a radical of

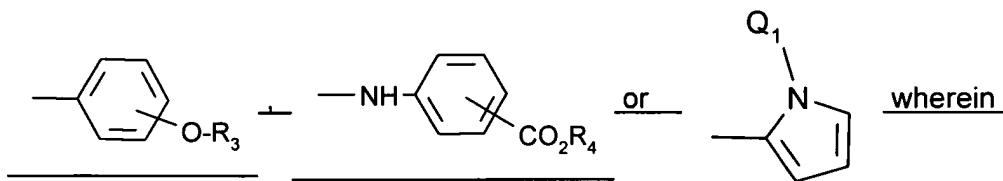


R<sub>16</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl;

m<sub>1</sub> and m<sub>3</sub> are each independently of the other from 1 to 4;

p<sub>1</sub> is 0 or a number from 1 to 5;

A<sub>1</sub> is a radical of formula



R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>CHR<sub>5</sub>-O)<sub>n<sub>1</sub></sub>-R<sub>4</sub>; or a radical of formula -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(-OH)-CH<sub>2</sub>-O-T<sub>1</sub>;

R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen; M; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; or a radical of formula -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m<sub>2</sub></sub>-O-T<sub>1</sub> ;

R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen; or methyl;

T<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen; or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl;

Q<sub>1</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl;

M is a metal cation;

m<sub>2</sub> is from 1 to 4; and

n<sub>1</sub> is 1-16.

2. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein in formula (1)

m is 0; or 1;

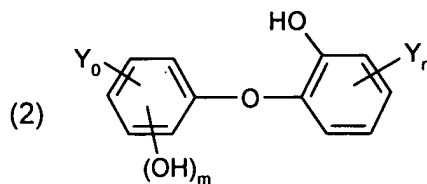
n is 1; or 2;

o is from 1 to 3;

p is 0; or 1; and

r is 1 or 2.

3. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula



wherein

m is 0; or 1;

o is from 1 to 3; and

r is 1 or 2.

4. (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein in formula (2)

m is 0;

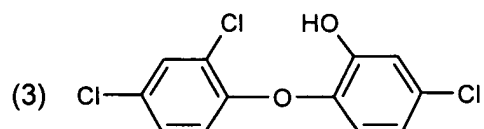
and o and r are as defined in claim 3.

5. (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein

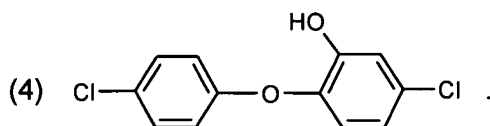
o is 1 or 2; and

r is 1.

6. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula



7. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula



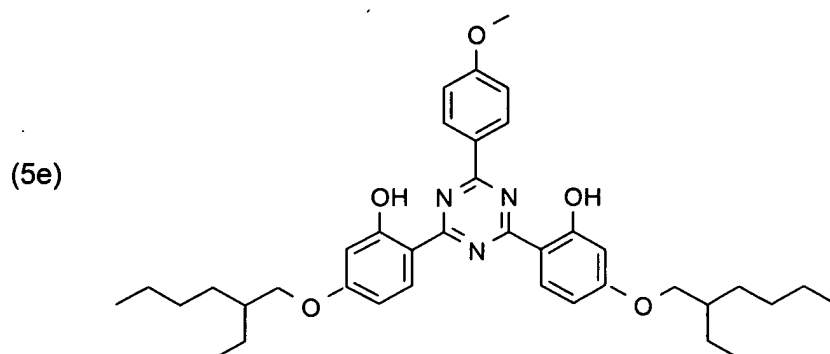
8. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound of formula (1) is used simultaneously for the antimicrobial treatment of the skin and mucosa and ~~also of integumentary appendages (hair).~~

9-10. (cancelled).

11. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1~~[9]~~, wherein the ratio of components (a) : (b) is from 1 : 99 to 99 : 1 ~~[[%-]]~~by weight.

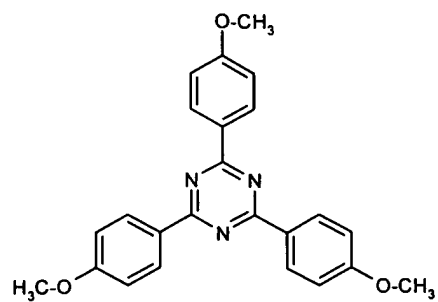
12-13. (cancelled).

14. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1~~42~~, wherein the composition comprises as component (c) the compound of formula



15. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1~~42~~, wherein the composition comprises as component (c) the compound of formula

(5f)



16-29. (cancelled).